UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1997/L.11/Add.9
24 April 1997

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 26

REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

Rapporteur: Ms. Margarita ESCOBAR LOPEZ

CONTENTS*

Chapter — Page

II. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its fiftieth session

B. Decisions

1997/123. Organization of the work of the fifty-fourth session . . . . . .

1997/124. Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights . . . . . .

1997/125. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance . . . . . .

1997/126. Restructuring and revitalization of the Commission on Human Rights . . . . . .

* Documents E/CN.4/1997/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1997/L.11 and addenda.

1997/123. Organization of the work of the fifty-fourth session

At its 68th meeting, on 18 April 1997, the Commission on Human Rights decided, without a vote, in the light of the positive experience gained by rescheduling the dates of its fifty-second and fifty-third sessions, to recommend to the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to Council decision 1994/297 of 29 July 1994, and bearing in mind Council decision 1995/296 of 25 July 1995, that the Commission's annual regular sessions should be rescheduled to take place in March/April each year, instead of earlier in the year, and that, accordingly, the fifty-fourth session should take place from 16 March to 24 April 1998.

[See chap. III.]

1997/124. Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights

At its 69th meeting, on 18 April 1997, the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session decided, without a vote, to defer consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.47, entitled "Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights", to its fifty-fourth session.

[See chap. IX.]

1997/125. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

At its 70th meeting, on 18 April 1997, the Commission on Human Rights, having considered the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (E/CN.4/1997/71), and in particular sub-heading E.3 of chapter II, entitled "Islamist and Arab anti-Semitism" and the text of paragraph 27 containing an offensive reference to the Holy Qur'an: "The use of Christian and secular European anti-Semitism motifs in Muslim publications is on the rise, yet at the same time Muslim extremists are turning increasingly to their own religious sources, first and foremost the Qur'an, as a primary anti-Jewish source.",

(i) Decided, without a vote, to express its indignation and protest at the content of such an offensive reference to Islam and the Holy Qur'an;

(ii) Affirmed that that offensive reference should have been excluded from the report;

(iii) Requested the Chairman to ask the Special Rapporteur to take corrective action in response to the present decision.

[See chap. XIII.]

1997/126. Restructuring and revitalization of the Commission on Human Rights

At its 70th meeting, on 18 April 1997, the Commission on Human Rights decided, without a vote, to defer consideration of draft resolution L.105, entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the Commission on Human Rights", to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

[See chap. III.]